AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 14, 27, 35, 36 and 42 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A desiccant able to reversibly absorb a carboxylic acid passivation material, said desiccant comprising:

a polymer binder selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, polyamines, ~~polysulfones,~~ and polyamides;

a drying agent dispersed in said binder; and

said polymer to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100.

2. (Previously amended) The desiccant of Claim 1, wherein said drying agent is a molecular sieve.

3. (Previously amended) The desiccant of Claim 1, wherein said drying agent is a zeolite.

4. (Previously amended) The desiccant of Claim 1, said polymer to said drying agent weight ratio being 1:4 to 1:10.

5. (Previously amended) The desiccant of Claim 1, further comprising:

a solvent, said polymer and said drying agent to solvent weight ratio being 2:1 to 1:100.

6. (Previously amended) The desiccant of Claim 1, wherein said polymer is a structural polysaccharide.

7. (Previously amended) The desiccant of Claim 1, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, chitin, and their functional derivatives.

8. (Previously amended) The desiccant of Claim 1, wherein said polymer is poly(vinylpyrrolidone).

9. (Previously amended) The desiccant of Claim 1, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(2-vinylpyridine), poly(4-vinylpyridine), and copolymers of 2-vinylpyridine and 4-vinylpyridine.

10. (Previously amended) The desiccant of Claim 1, wherein said polymer is poly(p-phenylene sulfone).

11. (Previously amended) The desiccant of Claim 1, further comprising:

a carboxylic acid passivation material, said carboxylic acid passivation material absorbed by said polymer.

12. (Previously amended) The desiccant of Claim 11, wherein said carboxylic acid passivation material is a perfluoroalkanoic acid.

13. (Previously amended) The desiccant of Claim 11, wherein said carboxylic acid passivation material is perfluorodecanoic acid.

14. (Currently amended) A device comprising:

a micromechanical machine;

a package enclosing said micromechanical machine; and

a desiccant enclosed by said package, said desiccant able to reversibly absorb a carboxylic acid passivation material, said desiccant comprising:

a polymer binder selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, polyamines, ~~polysulfones,~~ and polyamides;

a drying agent dispersed in said binder; and

said polymer to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100.

15. (Original) The device of Claim 14, wherein said drying agent is a molecular sieve.

16. (Original) The device of Claim 14, wherein said drying agent is a zeolite.

17. (Original) The device of Claim 14, said polymer to said drying agent weight ratio being 1:4 to 1:10.

18. (Original) The device of Claim 14, further comprising:

a solvent, said polymer and said drying agent to solvent weight ratio being 2:1 to 1:100.

19. (Original) The device of Claim 14, wherein said polymer is a structural polysaccharide.

20. (Original) The device of Claim 14, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, chitin, and their functional derivatives.

21. (Original) The device of Claim 14, wherein said polymer is poly(vinylpyrrolidone).

22. (Original) The device of Claim 14, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(2-vinylpyridine), poly(4-vinylpyridine), and copolymers of 2-vinylpyridine and 4-vinylpyridine.

23. (Original) The device of Claim 14, wherein said polymer is poly(p-phenylene sulfone).

24. (Original) The device of Claim 14, further comprising:

a carboxylic acid passivation material, said carboxylic acid passivation material absorbed by said polymer.

25. (Original) The device of Claim 24, wherein said carboxylic acid passivation material is a perfluoroalkanoic acid.

26. (Original) The device of Claim 24, wherein said carboxylic acid passivation material is perfluorodecanoic acid.

27. (Currently amended) A method of applying a desiccant able to reversibly absorb a carboxylic acid passivation material, said method comprising the steps of:

mixing said desiccant, said mixing comprising mixing:

a polymer binder selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, polyamines, ~~polysulfones,~~ and polyamides; and

a drying agent dispersed in said binder, said polymer to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100;

applying said desiccant to a surface; and

curing said desiccant.

28. (Previously amended) The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of:

conditioning said desiccant by allowing said desiccant to absorb a carboxylic acid passivation material.

29. (Previously amended) The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of:

conditioning said desiccant by allowing said desiccant to absorb a perfluoroalkanoic acid passivation material.

30. (Previously amended) The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of:

conditioning said desiccant by allowing said desiccant to absorb a perfluorodecanoic acid passivation material.

31. (Previously amended) The method of Claim 27, said curing step comprising heating said desiccant in the presence of a vacuum.

32. (Previously amended) The method of Claim 28, said conditioning step comprising

heating said desiccant in the presence of a vacuum.

33. (Previously amended) The method of Claim 28, said conditioning step comprising the steps of:

heating said desiccant in the presence of a vacuum; and

exposing said desiccant to said carboxylic acid passivation material.

34. (Previously amended) The method of Claim 28, said conditioning step comprising the steps of:

heating said desiccant in the presence of a vacuum; and

depositing said carboxylic acid passivation material in solid form directly in a package; and

sealing said package; and

heating said package so that said carboxylic acid passivation material is absorbed into said desiccant.

35. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 27, said mixing step comprising the step of mixing:

a polymer binder selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, polyamines, ~~polysulfones,~~ and polyamides;

a drying agent dispersed in said binder, said polymer to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100; and

a solvent, wherein said polymer and said drying agent to solvent weight ratio is 2:1 to 1:100.

36. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 27, said mixing step comprising the step of mixing:

a polymer binder selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, polyamines, ~~polysulfones,~~ and polyamides;

a drying agent dispersed in said binder, said polymer to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100; and

a solvent, wherein said polymer and said drying agent to solvent weight ratio is 1:1 to 1:10.

37. (Original) The method of Claim 27, said mixing step comprising the step of mixing:

a structural polysaccharide; and

a drying agent dispersed in said binder, said structural polysaccharide to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100.

38. (Original) The method of Claim 27, said mixing step comprising the step of mixing:

a polymer selected from the group consisting of cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, chitin, and their functional derivatives; and

a drying agent dispersed in said binder, said polymer to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100.

39. (Original) The method of Claim 27, said mixing step comprising the step of mixing:

poly(vinylpyrrolidone); and

a drying agent dispersed in said binder, said poly(vinylpyrrolidone) to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100.

40. (Original) The method of Claim 27, said mixing step comprising the step of mixing:

a polymer selected from the group consisting of poly(2-vinylpyridine), poly(4-vinylpyridine), and copolymers of 2-vinylpyridine and 4-vinylpyridine; and

a drying agent dispersed in said binder, said polymer to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100.

41. (Original) The method of Claim 27, said mixing step comprising the step of mixing:

poly(p-phenylene sulfone); and

a drying agent dispersed in said binder, said poly(p-phenylene sulfone) to drying agent weight ratio being 1:2.1 to 1:100.

42. (Currently amended) An image projection system comprising:

a light source providing a beam of light along a light path;

a micromirror on said light path, said micromirror device selectively reflecting portions of said beam of light in response to image data and control signals, said micromirror device comprising:

a micromechanical machine;

a package enclosing said micromechanical machine; and

a desiccant enclosed by said package, said desiccant able to reversibly absorb a carboxylic acid passivation material, said desiccant comprising:

a polymer binder selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, polyamines, ~~polysulfones,~~ and polyamides;

a drying agent dispersed in said binder; and

wherein said polymer to drying agent weight ratio is 1:2.1 to 1:100

projection optics receiving said selectively reflected portions of said beam of light and focusing said selectively reflected portions of said beam of light onto an image plane.

43. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 42, wherein said drying agent is a molecular sieve.

44. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 42, wherein said drying agent is a zeolite.

45. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 42, said polymer to said drying agent weight ratio being 1:4 to 1:10.

46. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 42, wherein said polymer is a structural polysaccharide.

47. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 42, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, chitin, and their functional derivatives.

48. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 42, wherein said polymer is poly(vinylpyrrolidone).

49. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 42, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(2-vinylpyridine), poly(4-vinylpyridine), and copolymers of 2-vinylpyridine and 4-vinylpyridine.

50. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 42, wherein said polymer is poly(p-phenylene sulfone).

51. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 42, further comprising:

a carboxylic acid passivation material, said carboxylic acid passivation material

absorbed by said polymer.

52. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 51, wherein said carboxylic acid passivation material is a perfluoroalkanoic acid.

53. (Original) The image projection system of Claim 51, wherein said carboxylic acid passivation material is perfluorodecanoic acid.